

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 13th, 2020

11:30 a.m.

Commissioners and Staff present: Chair David Fakunle; Sonya Osei; Zenita Hurley; Kristin McFarlane; Maya Davis; Omar Martinez; Roger Davidson; Tim Baker; Carl Snowden; Elgin Klugh; Tamara Wilson; Elizabeth Hughes; David Armenti; Daneen Brown; Will Schwartz; Chris Haley; Edith Perry; Kirkland J. Hall.

Participating via telephone: Simone Barrett, Gary Norman, Nicholas Creary; Iris Barnes; Marshall Stevenson;

Absent: Joseline Peña-Melnyk; Charles L. Chavis, Jr.;

Members of the public present: Steve McKenna; John Muller; Tomora Wright; Chanel Compton; David Fuller; Joy Owens; Marlana Jareaux; Diane Evartt; Emily Oland Squires; Jim Kunz; Pat Anderson; Michael Reed; Nassir Rezvan; Kathy Glyshaw; David Terry;

Call to Order: Acting Chair Fakunle called the meeting to order at approximately 11:35 A.M. Commissioners and members of the public introduced themselves for the record.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes for the Monday, December, 9th, 2019 Commission meeting were considered and approved with discussion.

- Formal invitations WILL be sent out to those people to testify and speak on their experiences.
- Formal testimony hearings will have time constraints. Commission want people to have an opportunity to speak freely but may have to revisit times. Decision still undecided.
- Damika Baker will replace Jackie Copeland.

Purpose/Details of Commission

- The purpose of the Commission is to enhance and promote Lynching reconciliation work and previous research completed by other organizations/affiliations. Only Commissioners (those who have been commissioned) are allowed to do work under the umbrella of the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Work can be done outside out that window, but will not be affiliated with the work of the LTRC Commission.
- Where is the central storage location? Who has ownership? Public? What channels are being used? MD State Archives will be central repository. Ultimately, State Archives will house everything, but will be share all documents with HBCU's and affiliates in Maryland.

- Subcommittees must submit subcommittee meeting information to Maya and Sonya. Administrative files will all be uploaded to LTRC website for them to be publically accepted. Any request for any information must contact Acting chair, Zenita, Sonya, and Kristen.
- Voting for chair and co-chair tabled. Come up with process for how to conduct elections. Next meeting to vote on commission and vice chair.

Committee Reports: Logistics Committee

- Spoke with other committee chairs to continue working on template for hearings. Will finalize and call in with videographer to discuss budget and context of storytelling. St. Barsh Association for possible resource for work moving forward.
- Timeline for template for hearings. Next meeting deadline 2/10/2020. Share with the commissioners and other coalitions to get input from others.
- Hearing Venue? What's an ideal location? Church or Community center? Hearing locations should be central location that promote peace and comfortability. Community spaces will be used and coalitions/local communities can assist with determining venues. Funds are limited.
- Historical sights and museums can be used for venue for hearings. That would assist with marketing as well. State Attorneys will look into if religious locations are acceptable. Rooms with video capabilities are essential for AV.
- Engaging and outreach outside of invitations about upcoming hearings will benefit having wider broadcast of support. Hearing template must be finalized before scheduling hearings.
- Open List of goals from Research Committee to give overview of what is discussed in subcommittee meeting:
 - Envision a potential facilitator to assist engaging participants to speak comfortably.
 - Fulfill the reconciliation process for these families.
 - Outlines, transcriptions, videography.
 - Minimum of 10 locations for hearings.
 - See if other coalitions and organizations with larger support and presence can assist with resources.
- Marketing: Consider partnerships with media WBL or WBLC can put together PSA's for commission outreach. Radio stations. Public access which is government based but can be done on a county level.
- 10 hearings in the state, but implications of time and costs. Based on numbers of crimes in that area. Range between 1-5 lynchings or maybe MORE. 10 will be necessary for driving capacities, location, and range. Timeline 1854-1933. There are costs associated with hearings. Would like 3-4 hearings done before the preliminary report is due. September 2020.
- Racial terror lynching are described as lynchings and killings. Use NAACP for regulations for what is lynching. Must be a body, must be a group committed crimes, and must have hate based or racial motivation.

- Commission will focus on the acts of lynchings and how it was encouraged, Led by hate, taken land, etc. Must discuss factors of legacy for lynchings and modern day. Ex/Freddy Gray. How they resemble each other from 60 years ago and now.
- Draft frequently asked questions and assign them to commissioners to speak. Have mental health staff available.
- Watch the movie **Just Mercy** to give backstory and perspective on the history of lynching reconciliation work.

Committee Reports: Research Committee

- MD State Archives will present information of their process of how to disseminate the information and archives to the public and organizations. Research committee will work with MD State archives to assess storage capabilities.
- Fri, January, 17th 2020 at Lilly Carol Museum at 11 am. Call in capacity will be available. MD States archive will set up call information. Zoom. Agenda sent out before end of meeting.
- BUDGET: Listening to stories and genealogical work to identify victims. These should be budgeted items. Postage, Duplication fees, travel, oral historical and genealogical historians.
- Goal of research committee is to make sure there is a baseline if data for commission work and each victim. Have a means of completing additional research. Fund research assistance.
- Process needed for extracting information that has already been gathered. Process needed of defining scope. Goal to find contractor. Graduate students and others can be trained and utilized used to assist with the completion of research on behalf of commission.
- HBCU Lawsuit in progress can assist in promoting awareness. Using affiliated HBCU's to conduct some multimedia work to help promote the work of commission.

Committee Reports: Reconciliation and Justice Committee

- **Charles** Chavis has assumed sub-committee chair role.
- 12/30/19 was first committee meeting
- Came up with actions they want to take for reconciliation:
 - Minimalists**- Establishment of historical marker for example: EGI in Alabama, storage collections, placements of monuments.
 - Deliberates**- Institutional reform, legal reform, justice and accountability. Developing a curriculum for juvenile jail restrictive.
 - Maximalists**- Racial hearing, restorative justice, creating center to outlast Commission work, making sure future textbooks include racial lynchings, more transparent. Terror lynching.
- Examining the capability of news stations and other organizations about what occurred during those times.

- **Next Steps-**
 - Requesting meetings with other coalitions
 - Identify expert witness
 - Reconciliation facilitators
 - Historical trauma experts
 - Mental health workers
 - Civil rights attorneys

State Archives website presentation:

- Meeting information, commissioner information, bylaws and House Bill all included, msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/committee.html
- Only commission members are listed under subcommittee members
- ADD Will Schwartz as staff person
- Contact page information: inquiries need to be sent to staff commission staff members. Zenita and Sonya will oversee. Currently Maryland State is receiving.
- Suggestion to include Frequently Asked Questions page

Update for Coalition Meetings:

- PG
- Howard County Saturday
- Baltimore county
- Carol, Allegany, Kent, Anne Arundel, Frederick, Hartford Soil Collection 1/28/2020.

2020 Legislative Agenda

Still working on budget

- Each subcommittee come together with line items needed to create budget.
- Submit extension request for preliminary report. Come up with deadline time

Motion, Adjourn 1:40 p.m.